

## **MICHIGAN AERONAUTICS COMMISSION**

Minutes of Meeting  
Marquette, Michigan  
September 13, 2006

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Pursuant to Section 31 of Act 327 of the Public Acts of 1945, the Commissioners of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission (MAC), created by said act, met at the Don H. Bottum University Center, 1401 Kaye Avenue, Marquette, Michigan, on Wednesday, September 13, 2006, commencing at the hour of approximately 10:00 a.m.

### **Members Present**

Terry Everman, Chairman  
James Collins, Vice Chairman  
Joyce Woods, Commissioner  
Sidney Adams, Jr., Commissioner  
Daniel Atkinson, Designee - MSP  
Leon Hank, Designee - MDOT  
Mindy Koch, Designee - MDNR  
Robert Johnston, Designee - MDMVA  
Rob Abent, Commission Director

### **Members Absent**

Kirk Steudle, Commissioner  
Richard Elliott, Commissioner

### **Also Present**

Ray Howd, Assistant Attorney General

### **Staff**

Barbara Burris, Executive Division  
Rick Hammond, Airports Division  
Pauline Misjak, Aviation Services  
Randy Collier, Airports Division  
Mark Noel, Airports Division

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A list of all others present is attached to the official minutes.

## I. OPENING REMARKS

The September 13, 2006 Aeronautics Commission meeting was called to order by Chairman Terry Everman at 10:00 a.m. He welcomed the large group in attendance and special guest Joseph Pietro, former MAC Commissioner, of Perch Lake. He acknowledged the attendance of Mr. Bill Blake, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, and noted that Mr. Ray Howd would be substituting in behalf of House Counsel Pat Isom. He asked the members of the Commission to introduce themselves to those assembled.

The Commissioners seated at the head table proceeded with introductions: Dan Atkinson, representing Michigan State Police Director Col. Peter Munoz; Brig. General Bob Johnson, representing Brig. Gen. Richard Elliott, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; Mindy Koch, representing Director Rebecca Humphries, Department of Natural Resources; Leon Hank, MDOT Chief Administrative Officer, representing Director Kirk Steudle; Jim Collins, Vice Chairman; Rob Abent, Commission Director; Joyce Woods, Commissioner; Sidney Adams, Commissioner; Ray Howd, Assistant Attorney General; and Barbara Burris.

For the record, the Chairman noted the resignation of Commissioner Eric V. Smith.

## II. PRESENTATIONS

In 1990, the Michigan Aeronautics Commission (MAC) began a tradition of bestowing the *MAC Award of Excellence* to recognize one individual and one group/organization whose innovative contributions have led to significant improvements to aviation facilities, operations or public relations in the aviation community. Since that time, over two dozen individuals and organizations have been recognized for their significant commitment and extraordinary efforts. In keeping with that, the Chairman announced the winner of the 2006 individual MAC Award of Excellence: Mr. Jim Rice, Manager of Flint Bishop International Airport. He asked Mr. Rice to come forward.

The Chairman and Director Abent presented a walnut plaque. Director Abent read the inscription: "In recognition of contributions, dedication, and leadership in the development of Flint Bishop International Airport and 35 years of dedicated service for the improvement of aviation in the State of Michigan." (Applause.)

Director Abent congratulated Mr. Rice. Commissioner Hank thanked Mr. Rice on Director Steudle's behalf.

Mr. Rice thanked the Commission and the Aeronautics staff. He credited the men and women who work at the airport for its success.

The Chairman advised of a second award, the "group award," slated to be presented to an organization that provides outstanding service in the form of training and education for pilots. He explained that representatives from the Detroit Aviation Safety Counselors, Stevan Weaver and John Rushman, were unable to attend due to weather. He asked Randy Coller, the 2006 Great Lakes Safety Counselor of the Year, to accept the award on their behalf.

Director Abent read the inscription:

"In recognition of Stevan Weaver and the 90 dedicated volunteer members of the Detroit Aviation Safety Counselors for their ongoing commitment to aviation safety, promotion of air commerce, pilot proficiency, and education of Michigan's aviation population."

Upon acceptance, Mr. Coller related that due to an illness in Mr. Rushman's family, Mr. Weaver did not think it prudent to fly solo. In essence, "they were living up to their charter." The award will be presented to the Detroit Aviation Safety Counselors at the November 15 meeting in Lansing.

Chairman Everman praised the efforts of the Detroit Aviation Safety Counselors; saying without them, the level of aviation safety would not be what it is today.

### III. COMMISSION BUSINESS

#### A. Minutes of July 26, 2006

Turning to the business of the Commission, the Chairman called for corrections or changes to the minutes of July 26, 2006. Hearing none, he entertained a motion for approval.

It was moved by Commissioner Adams, with support from Commissioner Collins, to approve the minutes of July 26, 2006. By unanimous voice vote, the MOTION CARRIED.

The Chairman called on Airports Administrator Rick Hammond to present the 14 projects pending Commission approval.

Director Abent noted for the record that Mr. Hammond was standing in for Funding Manager Dave Baker, who was excused to represent the Commission and the bureau at the annual NASAO conference.

B. Federal/State/Local Projects

Airport Name & Associated City/County	Project Description	Federal \$	State \$	Local \$	Total \$
Southwest Michigan Regional Benton Harbor	Preliminary engineering for Runway 9/27 safety area improvements	248,000	54,250	7,750	310,000
Southwest Michigan Regional Benton Harbor	Land acquisition – Area 2	315,965	69,117	9,874	394,956
Wexford County Cadillac	Supplemental for obstruction removal	53,600	11,725	1,675	67,000
Cheboygan County Cheboygan	ALP Update, design of Runway 16/34 extension & paving; approach clearing for Runways 9 and 34	60,000	13,125	1,875	75,000
Grosse Ile Municipal Detroit/Grosse Ile	ALP Update	49,920	10,920	1,560	62,400
Gerald R. Ford Intl. Grand Rapids	Pavement management analysis, design of perimeter road – Phases IB & II	247,000	6,500	6,500	260,000
Hillsdale Municipal Hillsdale	Land Acquisition, closing and relocation costs for parcels 6 – 11, 36, 40, 41, 42, 44, 45, 47-58, 62, 72 & 74	1,000,000	218,750	31,250	1,250,000
Livingston County- Spencer J. Hardy Howell	Land Acquisition	448,000	98,000	14,000	560,000
Jackson County- Reynolds Field Jackson	Design of Runway 14/32 & Taxiway D extension/rehabilitation	130,400	28,525	4,075	163,000
Manistee County- Blacker Manistee	Terminal building, entrance road, apron & parking lot	0	1,925,650	101,350	2,500,000

Oakland/Southwest New Hudson	Land acquisition consultant	148,000	32,375	4,625	185,000
Jerry Tyler Memorial Niles	Land acquisition for the NW approach, Exhibit A update	28,800	6,300	900	36,000
South Haven Area Regional South Haven	ALP Update, Phase I	66,400	14,525	2,075	83,000
Statewide	Wetland credit bank	1,124,000	245,875	35,125	1,405,000
Totals		3,302,520	2,600,545	203,335	6,106,400

With regard to the project at South Haven Area Regional, Mr. Hammond reminded the Commissioners of an appearance from a homeowner who challenged the data contained in the ALP. Staff of the bureau subsequently revisited the ALP and agreed that it may contain erroneous data. Further review will be undertaken before trees are trimmed and/or removed. Commissioners will be updated on these developments at a future meeting.

With respect to the Statewide project, Commissioner Koch asked whether the Departments of Environmental Quality (DEQ) or Transportation would hold conservation easements on the property used for wetland mitigation.

Mr. Hammond deferred to Ron Engle, P.E., of Mead and Hunt. Mr. Engel advised that conservation easements exist for the properties, but these are held by neither the departments nor the airport; rather they are held by the property owner. The airport is only purchasing credits.

Mr. Howd inquired whether the wetlands are preexisting or yet to be created.

Mr. Engel explained that they are wetlands created some three years ago which the DEQ has now approved for sale as credits.

In follow-up, Commissioner Koch queried whether anyone had thought of extinguishing the development rights versus having a private party hold the conservation easement. She went on to say that having a private party hold a conservation easement doesn't guarantee the conservation easement will be held in perpetuity.

Mr. Hammond responded that there is a contractual obligation with the property owner to maintain the wetlands in perpetuity.

Commissioner Hank clarified that the conservation easement remains with the land in perpetuity.

Mr. Engel concurred with this assessment. He added that records of these transactions are recorded with the Register of Deeds.

Ms. Misjak pointed out a discrepancy between the slide used by Mr. Hammond for Jackson County-Reynolds Field and Exhibit B, the official transfer list. She noted that the slide shows a much smaller amount than is reflected in Exhibit B. The record will reflect that the Commission is being asked to approve \$163,000, rather than \$18,900.

The Chairman entertained a motion to approve the 14 transfers, with noted change, as presented by Mr. Hammond.

It was moved by Commissioner Woods, with support from Commissioner Collins, to approve the funding for the 14 projects identified. By unanimous voice vote, the MOTION CARRIED.

The Chairman deferred to Mr. Hammond for a summary of the supplemental transfers.

Mr. Hammond identified five supplemental transfers, as contained in the Reports Section of the Commissioners' notebooks:

Bad Axe, Huron County Memorial: An eight (8) percent increase in federal/state/local funds resulting from the add-on of repairs to a section of the runway. The original cost of \$250,000 is thereby increased by \$20,000, for a total project cost of \$270,000.

Gaylord, Otsego County: A nine (9) percent increase in federal/state/local funding is needed to balance the previous transfers affected by revision to the funding splits. The original cost of \$315,790 is thereby increased by \$29,605, for a total project cost of \$345,395.

Howell, Livingston County-Spencer J. Hardy: A two (2) percent increase in federal/state/local funding resulting for the additional condemnation costs and attorney fees required to complete land acquisition. The original cost of \$700,000 is thereby increased by \$16,750, for a total project cost of \$716,750.

Mt. Pleasant, Mt. Pleasant Municipal: A four (4) percent increase in federal/state/local funding resulting from higher than anticipated bids for design and construction of the apron/taxiway expansion. The original cost of \$187,500 is thereby increased by \$7,725, for a total project cost of \$195,225.

Romeo, Romeo State Airport: A twelve (12) percent increase in federal/state/local funding resulting from higher than anticipated bids for construction of the entrance/access drive. The original cost of \$680,000 is thereby increased by \$79,500, for a total project cost of \$759,500.

No official action is required on the supplemental transfers.

#### IV. DISCUSSION

The Chairman recalled Mr. Hammond to update the Commission on the Charlotte Airport.

Mr. Hammond reported that initially there appeared to be nothing new to report on this airport. Subsequently, upon speaking with Stephanie Ward, P.E., Mead and Hunt, he learned that she would be leaving the conference to go to Charlotte for a kick-off meeting with the affected parties and review of the site analysis for the airport. A follow-up report will be presented at the next Commission meeting.

#### V. REPORTS

##### Director's Report

Director Abent, on behalf of the Commission and Aeronautics staff, thanked Karl Randall and the Executive Board of the Michigan Association of Airport Executives for sponsoring the MAAE fall conference and for their active participation in the Round Table Discussions held August 11 in Lansing. Two very informal meetings were held; one with representatives of the air carrier airports and one with representatives of the general aviation industry to discuss issues of mutual import. Follow-up action has been taken on some of the concerns brought forward that day. He thanked the MAAE again for partnering with the Commission and the bureau to make this event possible.

#### VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chairman opened the floor for comment from the audience. No speakers were forthcoming.

#### VII. ELECTIONS

Article IV of the Michigan Aeronautics Commission Bylaws requires that the Commission elect annually from its membership a chairperson and a vice chairperson for a term of one year. The Chairman called on Commissioner Adams to present the nominations for the Office of Chair and Vice Chair for the new term.

Commissioner Adams, Chair of the Nominating Committee, advised of holding discussions with the two other members of the committee, Commissioners Woods and Smith, regarding the nominations. With their concurrence, he presented the nominations for Chair and Vice Chair for 2006-2007 as follows:

For the position of Chair, Commissioner James Collins; and for the position of Vice Chair, Commissioner Joyce Woods.

Commissioner Adams recommended approval of the nominations.

Whereupon, Chairman Everman entertained a motion to approve the nominations as presented.

It was moved by Commissioner Hank, with support from Commissioner Koch, to approve the nominations for Chair and Vice Chair as noted. By unanimous voice vote, the MOTION CARRIED. (Applause.)

Chairman Everman congratulated Commissioners Collins and Woods and advised of two events the Commissioners were invited to participate in following the luncheon. He deferred to Director Abent.

Director Abent praised Chairman Everman as a "terrific public servant." He recounted that Chairman Everman had been instrumental in efforts from both the Director's Office and the Governor to reconfigure the bureau. He thanked the Chairman for all the assistance he provided during his term.

Chairman Everman reflected on the joys and the trials of being Chair and stated he was looking forward to continuing on the Commission. He then passed the gavel to Chair Elect Collins, who immediately declared the meeting adjourned.

The meeting concluded at approximately 10:50 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Aeronautics Commission is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, 2006, in Lansing.



Director



Chairman

Dated: November 15, 2006